

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims. The status of each claim is indicated. Amendments are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~striketrough~~ text. No new matter is added by these amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device adapted for insertion into a body of a patient for maintaining a passageway therein, the device comprising:

a first hollow member having ~~a first length~~, a proximal end, and a distal end, at least a portion of the proximal end remaining outside of the body when the distal end of the medical device is disposed within the body inserted;

a second hollow member having ~~a second length~~, a proximal end, and a distal end, at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member being sized to accept a medical instrument, the second hollow member being movably coupled to the first hollow member; and

a wedge having a first configuration and a second configuration, the wedge being disposed apart from the second hollow member when the wedge is in the first configuration, the second hollow member being configured to move with respect to the first hollow member along a longitudinal axis defined by the first hollow member when the wedge is in the first configuration, the wedge being in contact with the second hollow member when the wedge is in the second configuration, the second hollow member being unable to move with respect to the first hollow member along the longitudinal axis defined by the first hollow member when the wedge is in the second configuration. ~~length adjustment element in communication with both a distal end of the first hollow member and a proximal end of the second hollow member, wherein the length adjustment element adjustably joins together, coaxially, the first hollow member and the second hollow member, the joined members having a selectable combined length longer than the longest of the first length and the second length.~~

2. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member comprises a cylinder.
3. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is comprised of a semi-rigid material.
4. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is comprised of a material selected from the group including polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP), polyethylene, plastics, and combinations thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the first hollow member defines an inner diameter, the second hollow member defines an outer diameter, the inner diameter of the first hollow member being less greater than the outer diameter of the second hollow member.
6. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the medical instrument is a catheter.
7. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the first hollow member includes a beveled edge adapted to facilitate insertion into the body.
8. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the second hollow member defines an end face, the end face being adapted to facilitate insertion into the body.
9. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 8, wherein the end face defined by the distal end of the second hollow member defines ~~resides in a plane, the plane non-~~ orthogonal to and the a longitudinal axis defining an acute angle therebetween defined by the second hollow member.

10. (Original) The medical device of claim 8, wherein the end face includes a chamfered edge adapted to facilitate manipulation within the body.
- 11.-16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim ~~16~~ 1, wherein an interior surface of the distal end of the first hollow member ~~overlapping~~ overlaps and is in frictional communication with a portion of an exterior surface of the proximal end of the second hollow member.
18. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim ~~16~~ 1, wherein ~~at least one of the distal end of the first member and~~ the proximal end of the second hollow member ~~defining~~ defines a slot that extends axially along the ~~at least one of the first and second members~~ hollow member from the respective end, thereby enabling a radial deformation of the respective proximal end of the second hollow member.
19. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim ~~16~~ 1, wherein an elastomeric member is disposed between the distal end of the first hollow member and the proximal end of the second hollow member, the elastomeric member being in frictional communication with both the distal end of the first hollow member and the proximal end of the second hollow member.
20. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a radiopaque marking, adapted to facilitate positioning of the medical device at a predetermined location within the body.
21. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a marking upon at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member, ~~members~~, the

marking being adapted to facilitate adjustment of ~~the selectable~~ a combined length of the first hollow member and the second hollow member.

22. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a fastener at the proximal end of the first hollow member adapted for securing a guide wire device.

23. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 22, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising a retaining slot providing an interference fit for securing the guide wire device.

24.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the ~~combined first hollow member, the length adjustment element, and the second member are~~ is in substantially fluid tight communication with the second hollow member.

28. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a washer adapted for maintaining a substantially fluid-tight seal between the first hollow member and the second hollow member.

29. (Currently Amended) A medical device adapted for insertion into a body of a patient for maintaining a passageway therein, the device comprising:

a first hollow member for providing an unobstructed passageway from outside of the patient's body to the inside of the patient's body when inserted therein, the first hollow member having a sidewall defining a groove, the groove having a longitudinal portion and a plurality of notches, the longitudinal portion of the groove defining an axis parallel to a longitudinal axis defined by the first hollow member; and

a second hollow member in adjustable communication with the first hollow member for extending the unobstructed passageway provided by the first hollow member to a predetermined internal location, the second hollow member having a post configured to be disposed within the groove of the first hollow member, the post being configured to

move between the longitudinal portion of the groove and the plurality of notches of the groove, the post being configured to slide along the longitudinal portion of the groove when the second hollow member is adjusted with respect to the first hollow member at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member being sized to accept a medical instrument.

30.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 29, wherein one end of the first hollow member is in slidable communication with one end of the second hollow member for adjusting an overall length of the combined first hollow member and second hollow member. ~~members.~~

33. (Original) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the first hollow member has a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end comprising a flange for attaching medical instruments thereto.

34. (New) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a combined length of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is longer than a length of the first hollow member.

35. (New) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the wedge is configured to move within the first hollow member when the wedge is moved between the first configuration and the second configuration.

36. (New) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the wedge is disposed apart from the first hollow member when the wedge is in the first configuration.

37. (New) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the second hollow member does not move with respect to the first hollow member along the longitudinal axis defined by the

first hollow member when the post is disposed within one of the plurality of notches of the groove.

38. (New) The medical device of claim 29, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is sized to accept a medical instrument.
39. (New) The medical device of claim 29, wherein each notch of the plurality of notches defines an axis non-parallel to the longitudinal axis defined by the first hollow member.
40. (New) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the second hollow member is in a locked position with respect to the first hollow member when the post is disposed within one of the plurality of notches of the groove.
41. (New) The medical device of claim 29, wherein a distal end of the second hollow member defines an end face, the end face defining a plane non-orthogonal to a longitudinal axis defined by the second hollow member.
42. (New) The medical device of claim 29, further comprising a radiopaque marking adapted to facilitate positioning of the medical device at a predetermined location within the body.
43. (New) The medical device of claim 29, further comprising a marking upon at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member, the marking being adapted to facilitate adjustment of a combined length of the first hollow member and the second hollow member.
44. (New) The medical device of claim 29, further comprising a fastener at a proximal end portion of the first hollow member, the fastener adapted for securing a guide wire device.

45. (New) The medical device of claim 44, further comprising a retaining slot providing an interference fit for securing the guide wire device.